

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00378 01 OF 02 240759Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 /054 W

----- 102738

R 240656Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 842

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SOFIA 0378

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN, EGEN, PINT, BU

SUBJECT: BCP THESES ON LIVING STANDARD

REF: (A) SOFIA 316; (B) SOFIA 94; (C) SOFIA 1675

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: BCP CC THESES ON RAISING LIVING STANDARD CATALOGUES GOALS FOR PERIOD TO 1990, BUT IN PROCESS HIGHLIGHTS CURRENT WEAKNESSES AND SHORTAGES IN PRODUCTION FOR CONSUMERS. IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING CITED AS PRIMARY TASK OF PARTY. INCREASE IN LABOR PRODUCTIVITY CALLED "MAIN PRECONDITION" FOR IMPROVED LIVING STANDARD, AND VARIOUS INCENTIVES TO WORKERS ARE NOTED. STABILITY OF FAMILY IS EMPHASIZED AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUNG AND AGED AFFIRMED DESPITE ALREADY EXISTING STATE ASSISTANCE TO THESE GROUPS. INTERESTING FIGURES ON INCOME--CURRENT AND PROJECTED--ARE GIVEN. ANOTHER APPARENT WARNING OF POSSIBLE CONSUMER PRICE INCREASES IS INCLUDED. DESPITE STATEMENTS ON PAST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SOFIA 00378 01 OF 02 240759Z

AND PROJECTED PROGRESS AND PROMISED TAX CUTS, THESES,

WITH THEIR EMPHASIS THAT INCREASES IN LIVING STANDARDS MUST COME FROM QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE INCREASES IN WORKER PRODUCTIVITY, ARE UNLIKELY TO STIR MUCH POPULAR ENTHUSIASM. END SUMMARY.

2. FOURTH AND FINAL BCP CC "THESES" PREPARING FOR XI PARTY CONGRESS WERE PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 12. FORMALLY TITLED "FOR A FURTHER FULFILLMENT OF DECEMBER PROGRAM FOR RAISING LIVING STANDAR OF POPULATION DURING SEVENTH FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND UNTIL 1990," THESES TOOK OVER FOUR FULL PAGES OF PARTY NEWSPAPER RABOTNICHESKO DELO. AS WITH PREVIOUS SETS (REFS A AND B), THESES ARE CATALOGUE OF DESIRED GOALS WITHOUT DISCUSSION OF PRACTICAL MEASURES NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THEM. AT THE SAME TIME, DOCUMENT ADMITS TO CURRENT WEAKNESSES AND SHORTAGES, SOMETIMES OPENLY, SOMETIMES IMPLICITLY, IN GOALS SET FOR 1980 OR 1990.

3. SECTION ON ENHANCEMENT OF CONSUMPTION CONTAINS TABLE LISTING TWELVE BASIC FOODSTUFFS, FIVE "INDUSTRIAL COMMODITIES" (FABRICS, FOOTWEAR, ETC.), AND FIVE DURABLE CONSUMER GOODS (RADIOS, TVS, CARS, ETC.) ALONG WITH "RATIONAL NORMS" FOR EACH ITEM (NOT FULLY EXPLAINED, BUT APPARENTLY A DETERMINATION OF OPTIMAL QUANTITIES ON "SCIENTIFIC BASIS") AND WITH LEVELS REACHED IN 1975 AND PLANNED FOR 1980. OF COMPLETE LISTING, ONLY FLOUR, EDIBLE VEGETABLE OILS, SUGAR AND SUGAR PRODUCTS, AND BEANS MET OR EXCEEDED NORMS IN 1975. DESPITE STATEMENT ELSEWHERE IN TEXT THAT "EXISTING SHORTAGE OF VITALLY IMPORTANT CONSUMER GOODS IS TO BE LIQUIDATED IN NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS AND A NEW ONE IS NOT TO BE ALLOWED", ONLY ADDITIONAL ITEM TO JOIN GROUP IN 1980 IS RADIOS. QUANTITIES OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS FOR 1975 ARE ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF NORM AND PLAN FOR VEGETABLES FOR 1980 IS STILL 16 PERCENT BELOW NORM. SECTION ALSO CALLS FOR "DECISIVE" INCREASE IN QUALITY OF CONSUMER GOODS AS WELL AS GREATER VARIETY AND NOTES COMMODITIES EXHIBITED AT PLOVDIV INTERNATIONAL FAIR MUST BE PRODUCED IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES FOR INTERNAL MARKET. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SOFIA 00378 01 OF 02 240759Z

ALL OF THIS TELLS GREAT DEAL ABOUT PRESENT STATE OF BULGARIAN CONSUMER PRODUCTION.

4. HOUSING, LONG-STANDING AND POSSIBLY WORSENING PROBLEM AREA, COMES IN FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION. EXPANSION OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY IS CALLED "TASK OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL POLICY OF PARTY". CREDITS FOR HOUSING ARE

TO BE EXPANDED ON PRIORITY BASIS. BUT THESES
ANTICIPATE PROVIDING PRIVATE DWELLINGS FOR EVERY
FAMILY ONLY BY 1983-85, AND ONLY BY 1990 ENSURING
INDIVIDUAL ROOM IN DWELLING FOR EVERY MEMBER OF
FAMILY. DURING 7TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1976-80) IT IS
PROPOSED 400-420 THOUSAND DWELLINGS BE BUILT AND
TOTAL CALLED FOR BY 1990 IS 1.6 MILLION UNITS. AVERAGE
SQUARE SURFACE OF DWELLINGS IS PLANNED TO REACH 75
SQUARE METERS DURING 7TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN, 80-85 DURING
8TH, AND 95-100 DURING 9TH.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00378 02 OF 02 240809Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 /054 W

----- 102827

R 240656Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 843

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 SOFIA 0378

5. GROWTH OF ECONOMY IS TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR
IMPROVED STANDARD OF LIVING AND "INCESSANT INCREASE
IN LABOR PRODUCTIVITY" IS CALLED "MAIN PRECONDITION".
NUMBER OF INCENTIVES FOR HARDER, BETTER WORK APPEAR
IN VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THESES. "MAIN PRINCIPLE OF
DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL WEALTH...WILL BE ACCORDING
TO QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF LABOR", INCREASE OF NOMINAL
AND REAL INCOMES IS TO "CONTINUE IN KEEPING WITH
ACHIEVED GROWTH OF LABOR PRODUCTIVITY", "BEST WORKERS...

ARE TO BE GIVEN CERTAIN PREFERENCES IN USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS",
PRIORITY IN DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSING WILL BE GIVEN
TO (AMONG OTHERS) THOSE "DISTINGUISHED FOR THEIR
REMARKABLE LABOR AND PUBLIC ACTIVITY", AND "MAIN THING
NOW IS EVERY WORKER BE IMBUED WITH SENSE THAT
FURTHER INCREASE IN LIVING STANDARD OF THE PEOPLE
DEPENDS TO GREATEST EXTENT ON HIS EFFORTS AND LABOR."
ACCORDING TO THESES, INCREASED PRODUCTION OF ARTICLES
FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION "MUST BECOME NATIONAL TASK"
IN WHICH PRIVATE PLOTS IN AGRICULTURE ARE TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SOFIA 00378 02 OF 02 240809Z

CONTINUE BEING UTILIZED.

6. TURNING TO INTERNATIONAL SCENE, INTEGRATION WITH
ECONOMIES OF USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IS
PAID CUSTOMARY HOMAGE AND IT IS NOTED INDUSTRIAL
COOPERATION WITH NON-SOCIALIST COUNTRIES MUST BE
EXPANDED. IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS WILL SUPPOSEDLY
REACH 20 PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCK IN 7TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN,
INCREASING TO 25-30 PERCENT BY 1990 (PRESUMABLY
MOSTLY FROM USSR OR OTHER CEMA COUNTRIES, BUT NO BREAK-
DOWN IS GIVEN).

7. STRENGTHENING OF FAMILY IS ANOTHER MAJOR EMPHASIS
OF THESES. SOCIAL CLIMATE MUST BE CREATED FOR
DECISIVE DECREASE IN NUMBER OF DIVORCES. CONDITIONS
FOR COMBINING MOTHERHOOD WITH SOCIALLY CREATIVE LABOR
SHOULD BE GUARANTEED, AND POLICY OF ENCOURAGING
GREATER NUMBER OF BIRTHS SHOULD NOT REFLECT UNFAVORABLY
ON LIVING STANDARD OF FAMILY. STATE IS TO UNDERTAKE
AN EVER INCREASING SHARE OF SUPPORT OF RISING GENERATION
WITHOUT FREEING FAMILY FROM THEIR SUPPORT AND
EDUCATION. INDEED "SOCIAL PRESTIGE" OF FAMILY SHOULD
DEPEND ON PROPER REARING OF 2-3 CHILDREN. ON OTHER
END OF SPECTRUM, ELDERLY ARE TO RECEIVE LARGER
PENSIONS AND CARE, BUT "PUBLIC INTOLERANCE
MUST BE FOSTERED" AGAINST SONS AND DAUGHTERS WHO DO
NOT CARE FOR THEIR ELDERLY PARENTS.

8. THESES ALSO CONTAIN SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION
ON NATIONAL AND PER CAPITA INCOME. NATIONAL INCOME
1970-1975 REPORTEDLY INCREASED 46 PERCENT WHILE PER
CAPITA INCOME INCREASED 32.4 PERCENT AS COMPARED WITH
TH 25-30 PERCENT CALLED FOR IN PLAN DIRECTIVES.
MINIMUM SALARY WAS RAISED FROM 65 TO 80 LEVA IN 1973
WHILE PLAN DIRECTIVES ONLY CALLED FOR INCREASE TO
70 LEVA BY 1975. AVERAGE MONTHLY NOMINAL SALARY
IS SUPPOSED TO REACH 170 LEVA IN 1980, WITH MINIMUM
SALARY REACHING 90 LEVA BY THAT DATE. THESES ALSO

CALL FOR "SCIENTIFICALLY" SOUND REFORM OF WAGES AND SALARIES AS EARLY AS FIRST TWO YEARS OF 7TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN. REAL INCOME IS SUPPOSED TO INCREASE BY ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SOFIA 00378 02 OF 02 240809Z

4 PERCENT ANNUALLY DURING 7TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND BY 4.5-6.0 PERCENT ANNUALLY DURING FOLLOWING FIVE-YEAR PERIODS.

9. COMMENT: THESES APPEAR UNLIKELY TO STIR UP MUCH PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM OR SUPPORT. LISTING OF PAST IMPROVEMENTS IN LIVING STANDARD AND THOSE PROMISED FOR FUTURE SERVE MORE TO HIGHLIGHT PRESENT POOR CONDITIONS AND TO SLOW PACE OF IMPROVEMENT. EVEN LIMITED PROMISES MADE ARE TIED TO HARDER WORK.

10. STATEMENT THAT "RETAIL PRICES OF GOODS AND SERVICES MUST STILL FURTHER CORRESPOND TO NECESSARY SOCIAL LABOR OUTLAY, TO QUALITY, AND FASHION REQUIREMENTS" IS VERY SIMILAR TO LANGUAGE USED BY ZHIVKOV IN BURGAS SPEECH IN AUGUST 1975 (REF C) AND AGAIN APPEARS TO BE WARNING OF POSSIBLE CONSUMER PRICE INCREASES. THERE HAVE BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PRICE INCREASES IN MEANTIME, BUT REPETITION MAY BE LONGER-TERM PREPARATION OF PUBLIC ATTITUDE. AT VERY LEAST, PUBLIC IS PUT ON NOTICE THAT DESIRED IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY AND STYLE WILL NOT BE SUBSIDIZED, BUT MUST BE PAID FOR BY PUBLIC, AND THAT INCREASED PRODUCTION COSTS WILL BE PASSED ALONG TO THE CONSUMER.

11. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE TO NATO.
HERZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, STANDARD OF LIVING, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SOFIA00378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760068-0625
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760219/aaaaapws.tel
Line Count: 260
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SOFIA 316, 76 SOFIA 94, 76 SOFIA 1675
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BCP THESES ON LIVING STANDARD
TAGS: SGEN, EGEN, PINT, BU, BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006